THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE 10.7.03

Applicant: LITTLE <u>et al.</u>

Serial No.: 08/786,988

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For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PREPARING AND ANALYZING LOW

**VOLUME ANALYTE ARRAY ELEMENTS** 

Art Unit: 1743

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09/18/03

Date Tim Chettiath

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH RCE

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Response, which is responsive to the final Office Action mailed March 18, 2003, is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Entry of the following amendment and consideration of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.

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